

TRUTH ABOUT THE YAQUIS AS TOLD BY GEN. TORRES

AN AUTHENTICATIVE INTERVIEW WITH SONORA GENERAL

Rev. Fr. Juillard Visits Haunts of Savage Indians.

FIRST OFFICIAL STATEMENT TO BE OBTAINED ON YAQUI REBELLION

By special permission of the Catholic Pioneer, the Morning Journal is able to publish below the first authentic interview with General Luis E. Torres, of Sonora, on the extent, the causes and the results of the now famous Yaqui rebellion. Father George J. Juillard, editor and publisher of the Catholic Pioneer recently visited Sonora, called on General Torres and obtained this interview, which is probably the most valuable contribution thus far obtained to public information on the subject of the Yaquis. The interview and a general descriptive article on Sonora by Father Juillard appears in the forthcoming number of the Catholic Pioneer.

After describing at length and in glowing terms the unparalleled natural though undeveloped resources of Sonora, Fr. Juillard continues:

The lack of modern means of transportation has not been the only drawback of Sonora, nor the most important one. The real drawback is the Yaqui troubles. The Yaqui Indians resemble, in many ways, our Apaches. Like them they are a turbulent race. Formerly they lived along the banks of the Yaqui river, but are now scattered throughout the whole state. This bulk of them are peaceful, but a hundred "renegades" have for years been waging a savage guerilla warfare, especially in the mountainous regions of Sonora.

Most of the agricultural districts, especially the Yaqui valley, are patrolled and protected by troops, but it would be well nigh impossible to establish military camps at every mine in the mountain districts. This serious state of affairs has greatly handicapped the development of Sonora. In the few last years a renewal of hostilities and depredations on the part of the Yaquis has made itself felt throughout the state, but mostly in the mountain regions. The Yaquis have become more daring and dangerous. If any of our readers should, perchance, travel through Sonora, he will hear very strange reasons advanced by the natives as an explanation of the continuance of the Yaqui rebellion. The Mexicans have, in common with the other Latin races, a natural hostility towards being critical, and are easily led to ensure the actions and doings of those in authority. One must not, however, take these criticisms too seriously, nor attach too much importance to opinions expressed, as the Latin races are known to be rather severe in their terms when commenting on or about themselves, and their criticisms are, therefore, to be taken with a liberal allowance for good intention and personal sentiment.

What, then, is the cause of the rebellion of the Yaquis? Why is it allowed to drag on for years? Why are they not brought to terms? Shall Sonora be terrorized forever, or indefinitely, by a handful of bandits? While the writer was revolving these questions in his mind, a friend directed him to General Luis E. Torres. "Interview the general," he said to me, "and I am sure he will give you interesting data, which will help you to understand the Yaqui question, and which no one outside of him and Governor Ysabel can furnish reliably and truthfully." I knew that both General Luis E. Torres and Governor Rafael Ysabel had always displayed the greatest energy and intelligence in coping with the Yaqui problem, and I resolved to follow the advice given me.

On the third of March last the writer requested the privilege of an interview with Don Luis E. Torres, commander-in-chief of the First Military Zone of Mexico. Although the general's time was engaged in other important business matters, he granted the request with all the courtesy and politeness which seems so natural to the sons of this sunny land. The interview lasted nearly an hour. General Torres, although a man of almost sixty years, has preserved all the elasticity and buoyancy of his younger days. Besides his military and civil achievements, he could well boast of his literary successes, of a refined education and of a perfect knowledge, not only of his mother tongue, but also of English and French, which languages he speaks with unhesitating fluency. But the general is not a braggart; amid the many honors and distinctions which have marked his career, he has lost none of that modesty which characterizes the true man and the real hero.

"General, would you kindly give me some information about the Yaquis for the benefit of the readers of the Pioneer?" I asked him after a few words of introduction.

"Most certainly, and with pleasure," he answered.

"Would you, then, preface your remarks with some historical data concerning them?"

"I knew it would be a rather tiresome recital for the general to begin the tedious story of the Yaqui troubles ab ovo, but such a recital would be of interest to our readers and would aid them to understand the rights and wrongs of the Yaquis, who have been waging war against the government for three centuries and longer, and never yet been perfectly conquered. I, therefore, continued:

"We have, but too often, in our country, charged the Mexican government either with double dealing and injustice, or with impotency in its treatment of the Yaquis. We have



GENERAL LUIS E. TORRES, Commander-in-Chief of the First Military Zone of Mexico, in Charge of the War Against the Yaquis.

heard only one side of the question and would be pleased to hear the other side also, so as to be able to form a just and impartial judgment."

The general very obligingly proceeded to satisfy my request.

"Why the Yaqui troubles date back many years," he said smilingly, "they began in the times of the conquest. In 1533, when the conquistadores, on September 30th, crossed the Mayo river, they found the Yaquis entrenched near the banks of the Yaqui river well armed and ready for battle. Their chief, arrayed in garments extravagantly decorated with hundreds of brilliant shells, advanced to the front of his army, drew a line upon the ground, and defied the Spaniards to cross it. The Spanish captain protested that they had come as friends and not as enemies, and that all they asked for was food for their men and horses. 'We shall first bind your men and horses and then we will feed you,' was the reply of the Yaqui chieftain, who, as he was still speaking, untied his lasso as if he intended to rope one of the enemy. This was the signal for the battle, which ended in the complete defeat of the Spanish arms. Later, in 1584, Don Diego Martinez de Harado tried hard to conquer them, but was defeated in three consecutive campaigns. However, strange to say, in 1610, on the 15th of April, the Yaquis, of their own accord, submitted to the Spanish crown.

"Don Diego Martinez failed not to make mention of the indomitable bravery of the Yaquis. In his 'relation,' or report of his expedition, he said that no Indian tribe had caused him so much trouble as the Yaquis. For more than one hundred years the Yaquis were peaceful but in 1740 they rebelled. The rebellion was quenched by blood, and for eighty-five years the Indians were again at peace. Then began a period of consecutive rebellions. The years of 1825, 1826, and 1832 were marked by bloody wars, but the Yaquis were finally conquered and their leaders, Banderas and Gpiteres, executed. In 1867 they revolted again, and were once more defeated, but despite all their defeats they never fully submitted. They led a semi-savage life in the Yaqui valley."

"While the Yaquis had full sway in the valley of the Yaqui river, what did they do with that most fertile land?"

"Very little of the land was cultivated by the Indians. The most of the Yaqui did not and would not work, but when some of them, more thrifty than the others, would raise a crop or acquire a bunch of cattle, they were prevailed upon to share it with the other members of the tribe; as a consequence of this they were discouraged from continuing their efforts

and gradually they abandoned husbandry and stock raising."

"But the Yaquis were then at peace with the Mexicans?"

"At peace? Never! The Yaquis were always raiding here and there. The bulk of the tribe would seemingly be at peace, but human life was always more or less in jeopardy near the Yaqui district. The state government tried to prevent these raids in 1875, but failed. The Yaquis then thought themselves perfectly independent, and scoffed at every attempt at civilizing them. This state of affairs finally became unbearable. No self-respecting government will tolerate within its borders a tribe at defiance with civilization, law and order. No government, perhaps, has shown so much patience with the Indians as we have. The federal government decided to act."

"Were you then the general in command, Don Luis?"

"No, I was governor of Sonora; it was later, in 1895, that I was given command of this zone. When war broke out between the Yaquis and the federal troops the Yaquis were strong and daring, and some fierce battles were fought in the Yaqui river district. But the Yaquis could not stand their ground very long and abandoning the valley, they took refuge in the Bacatete mountains, from whence they terrorized the surrounding country. The federal troops pursued them into their seemingly impregnable strongholds, and drove them forth, dispersing their well organized warriors. The Yaquis even then would not submit. It took ten years of tedious warfare to bring them to terms. It was not until 1897 that a treaty of peace was signed between them and the government."

"The general, calling one of his secretaries, asked for a copy of the treaty, which was soon handed him. 'That agreement or treaty might interest you, sir. Allow me to read it.' The general, holding the document, which was printed in Spanish, in his hands, translated it into English at sight, and so fluent was his translation that one not knowing this could easily have been led to believe that it was printed in English. The wording of this treaty, of which the general kindly gave me a copy, is as follows:

"Proceedings enacted at the Station of Orta, District of Guaymas, in the state of Sonora, on the 15th day of May, 1897, with the object as expressed in the following: Juan Maldonado, chief of the Yaqui tribe, which has been in a state of warfare a long time, recognizes the sovereignty of the supreme government of the nation and of the government of the state, and recognizes also that it is his duty to submit in obedience to

the authorities of the one and of the other, and at the same time he surrenders with all his companions in arms to the supreme government of the nation, represented here by General Luis E. Torres, chief of this military zone. General Luis E. Torres, accepts in the name of the government the submission of Chief Juan Maldonado and his companions in arms, and offers them, in the name of the same supreme government all guarantees and assurance that they shall not be molested in their person or their interests; on account of the same supreme government will the federal government offer them lands on the Rio Yaqui, in townships now occupied, and intended for the natives who live along the same Rio Yaqui. Furthermore, the commanding general-in-chief offers to obtain, from the supreme federal government as well as from the state government, a certain amount of supplies and to distribute some animals and rations, for at least two months, among them and their families, which animals and rations shall be distributed in the villages in which they establish themselves. These supplies and animals, approved of by the governor of the state and a number of his employees, and by some well known persons, representatives of Guaymas and Hermosillo, and four copies of them will be taken, one of which will be given to Chief Juan Maldonado as a voucher for himself and his companions."

Here follows a long list of signatures of the Yaquis, dated June 1st, 1897. Luis E. Torres.

The general laid the document on his desk and looking askance as if he were talking to himself continued: "We have been true to our pledges. Indeed we have. We have given the Yaquis all the land on the Rio Yaqui they needed; nay, twenty times more land than they will ever dream of cultivating. We gave them cattle, tools and money. We fed them. Where is the nation that would have done more? We have been more than just; we have been humane to a degree undeserved by the Yaquis." These words clearly showed the impression which the general wished to make, namely, that his government, after giving to the Yaquis all and more than they needed, committed no injustice or breach of faith by opening the surplus land to settlement and civilization.

Then, as if awakening from a vision, or rather a revision of the past, the general addressed me directly: "I did even more; as religion has a soothing and pacifying effect, I ob-

"They have a varnish of Christianity, it is true, but this varnish only slightly covers a deep-rooted paganism; they cling to their old superstitions, and to all practical intents they are perfect heathens."

"So there is no solution to the Yaqui troubles?"

"Yes, there is. We send dangerous Yaquis with their families to Yucatan. There they work, make a good living, and do not return. It is too far for them to return to their old homes. About 2,000 Yaquis have already been transported to Yucatan. There are some 4,000 Yaquis left in Sonora, and but a few hundred of them molest us. When the new railroads will have opened the whole state to agriculture and commerce the Indian question will settle itself as it did in the United States. In the meantime we protect as much as possible the towns of the state."

The general then showed me a list of military posts established throughout the state of Sonora. "These posts," he said, "we keep for the protection of the population. As to prospectors, foreigners as well as Mexicans, we provide them with an escort to conduct them to their mines, and this escort is supplied free of charge by the government. Foreigners have certainly no right or reason to complain of our treatment; for no other government would, in the time of rebellion, go to the expense of helping foreigners with military aid in their business ventures. It is charged against us that business is nearly at a standstill in the state; that the mining industries suffer greatly from the rebellion of the Yaquis, but, on the other hand, we are trying hard to subdue the rebellion and to restore law and order, and on the other hand, we object to being held responsible to every foreigner, for our policy. We warn all imprudent miners of imminent danger, and of the expense of traveling through the mountains without waiting for an escort from us, we must emphatically disclaim all responsibility if any accident befall them."

"The Yaqui trouble may last a few months, perhaps a few years longer. When we capture Yaquis guilty of murder or plundering, we hang them, but for the last two years it has been difficult to catch up with the rebels, and the reason is this: This state, to a great extent, is composed of dry stretches of land; water is very scarce. As a consequence, life is possible only in a few districts where rivers, lakes and springs are found. It is comparatively easy to protect these rivers and springs with troops, and since the Indians, in time of

DE FOREST SYSTEM IS NOT OUT OF BUSINESS JUST YET

Albuquerque may yet have a wireless telegraph station for it seems that the De Forest wireless telegraph system, which is behind the project to build a wireless system through the Rocky mountain region, is far from being out of business, as stated recently in Denver newspapers. A recent dispatch from Washington has the following:

Washington, Mar. 26.—Abraham White, president of the De Forest Wireless Telegraph company, said today:

"I am remaining in Washington for the purpose of applying to the supreme court of the United States for contempt orders against the Marconi outfit for disseminating false information relating to the alleged United States supreme court decision and for the purpose of getting fraud orders against the stock jobbers and swindlers who are advertising the Marconi securities."

"In an old patent action between the Marconi company and the first De Forest company, which was succeeded later by the present American De Forest Telegraph company, a decision was rendered about one year ago by Judge Townsend in the circuit court denying absolutely the patent claims of the Marconi company relating to the broad field of wireless telegraph, but allowing several minor claims relating to small parts of wireless apparatus long since discarded by the De Forest company."

"It is ridiculous to assume that we are infringing the Marconi system. As we have been more successful, however, in our work, the alleged infringement must be better than the original, as we have the backing and support of the United States government and have today received the largest check ever paid by the navy department for wireless service, viz., \$33,500, on account of a single contract involving \$55,000."

Mr. White said that the report that the Marconi company had obtained a favorable decision in a suit brought in the supreme court of the United States to prevent the De Forest company from using certain devices essential to the conduct of its business was "circulated for the purpose of stock jobbing."

NEW MEXICO WAS RECOGNIZED AT THE DIVORCE CONGRESS

Territorial Delegate Got Scope of Plan Extended.

TO TAKE IN UNIFORM DIVORCE LEGISLATION FOR TERRITORIES

There convened in the city of Washington on February 19th last, a congress relative to divorce, and Mr. Francis Tracy Tobin was at the instance of Delegate Andrews, appointed by Governor Hageman to represent New Mexico at the congress.

The principal object of this congress was to discuss the most feasible methods of bringing about a uniformity in the divorce laws of the various states in the union, with a view to codifying the laws on this subject, and improving them generally; the conclusions of the congress and a proposed code, to be submitted to the various legislatures for action next winter.

Mr. Tobin on the opening day of the session presented his credentials. He had previously been informed that objections would be raised to territories being given representation in the congress, so he was not surprised when upon presenting his credentials the temporary presiding officer, William H. Staake, refused to recognize them, stating that he was of the opinion that the territories had no right there; that a territorial delegate in congress had no vote, that this divorce congress was national in its scope, and had convened to discuss state laws.

Mr. Tobin thereupon demanded admission, and the matter was referred to the committee on credentials. This committee reported favorably, holding that the territories had a right to representation, as the territorial legislatures passed laws on the matter of divorce. Mr. Tobin was then without further delay given a seat in the congress, with the right to speak on all questions, to submit motions, offer resolutions or propose amendments, but without the right to vote. The report of the committee was almost unanimously adopted. After Mr. Tobin had secured his seat as delegate, he offered an amendment to the effect that all acts passed or adopted by the congress wherein the word "States" occurred, that immediately after said word "States" the words "And the Territories of the United States" be inserted. This amendment was carried by a large majority, thus virtually investing the territorial representative with full rights, powers and privileges in the congress. This was a great victory for New Mexico.

The fact that a territorial representative from this territory had to put forth such strenuous efforts, as did Mr. Tobin, to secure a seat in the congress, and then overcome further objections in order to be given a voice in its deliberations, should be evidence that New Mexico is as keenly anxious for moral progress and improvement as is any other state or territory to the union, and that she is fully aware that laxity in divorce laws is a menace to any community and can only invite social demoralization.

The congress handled the question before it in a most able manner, and passed some very valuable resolutions relative to the restriction of the growing evil of divorce. The preparation of a uniform code on divorce to be passed by the legislatures of the various states and territories, was referred to a committee. The congress was composed of representative men and women from various parts of the United States, and its deliberations should eventually result in much good to the country, as the best element in the union was represented among its delegates. It was in session from February 19th to 22nd inclusive, and adjourned to meet in August at St. Paul, Minn., or at Washington, D. C. in November or December of this year, to be announced later.

New Mexico was the only territory who sent a delegate to this congress, though the other territories will no doubt have representatives at the adjourned session.

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YAQUI INDIANS AND THEIR FAMILIES ON THEIR WAY TO YUCATAN, THE MOST EFFECTIVE METHOD OF FIGHTING THE REBELLION IS BY DEPORTATION, WHEN THE INDIANS CAN BE CAUGHT.

tained priests and Sisters of Charity for them; I established schools in their villages; these are the strongest ties of civilization. But the wolf can hardly be domesticated. Notwithstanding all our well-meant efforts, the Yaquis revolted again two years later, using the money we gave them to buy arms, made for the mountains, carrying away with them one priest and four Sisters of Charity, and kept them captives for six months. This happened on July 21st, 1897."

"Since July, 1897, the Mexican government is then at war with the Yaquis?"

"This is not the right word. The Yaquis do not oppose our army with large bodies of warriors, so that no real battles are fought. They are now scattered all over Sonora. The majority of them are friendly, but small commandos scour the mountainous districts and commit depredations. When we send soldiers upon their trail they disband, often return to peaceful pursuits for a while, but rally together again later in a different section of the country. How can you tell a good Yaqui from a bad one unless you catch him in open rebellion? All the Yaquis speak Spanish, dress like poor Mexicans, and the good Yaquis give aid and shelter to the bad ones."

"It was told that the Yaquis were Catholics, general?"

drought, would have to come to those districts, they would either be forced to submit or be destroyed. But in the last two years we have had unusual rains; water can now be found anywhere, and the rebellion, instead of being confined to a few points, has spread over the whole region. Yaquis of Sonora even cross the frontier, go over into Arizona for a while, and return later for more depredations. Sonora is a country as large as England, and cannot be covered by military patrols and troops without great expense. However, the Yaqui trouble will be solved in due time, and Sonora, when fully developed, will amaze the world with its riches and resources."

"We welcome Americans in this land. Their interests are well fostered by Mr. Hostetter, their general consul, who in the short time he has been with us has proved himself to be a gentleman of rare intelligence, of broad progressive ideas, and thoroughly in sympathy with all the just demands and endeavors of our government. He has won the honor and esteem of all who came in contact with him."

The last words brought the interview to a close.

MORNING JOURNAL
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COURTMARTIAL GIVES FORT WHIPPLE DESERTER STIFF DOSE

McInness Goes to Jugoado for Two and a Half Years.

The findings of the courtmartial of Clifton C. McInness, on a charge of desertion recently held at Fort Whipple, have been returned from the war department at Washington, and the sentence is fixed at two and a half years' confinement at Fort Whipple, with a dishonorable discharge, and the forfeiture of all pay and allowances.

Until a few months ago when he deserted, the convicted man was a member of Company I of the Twenty-ninth Infantry, stationed at Fort Whipple. After forsaking the colors he worked at Humboldt for some time and with a companion returned to Prescott to enjoy a vacation with his friends and former acquaintances. By his ungentlemanly conduct while in an intoxicated condition he incurred the enmity of a number of his former comrades, one of whom told the story of his desertion to the chief of police, who promptly placed him under arrest, later giving him over to the military authorities. His courtmartial followed with the above result. He was allowed six months' credit on the full sentence, by the reviewing authorities.

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